

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 were pending in this application. Claims 2-4 and 6-17 have been cancelled, claim 5 has been amended and new claims 18-28 have been added hereby. Accordingly, claims 5 and 18-28 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of cancelled independent claim 2. The new claims find support throughout the specification, drawings and original claims. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action claims 1-4 and 6-17 were rejected over the prior art, but claim 5 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have rewritten claim 5 and have added new claims 18-22 that depend from this now-allowable claim.

In addition, new independent claim 23 is directed to a user verification device and has the same limitation as claim 5. New claims 24-27 depend from new claim 23.

New claim 28 is directed to a method that recites the same limitations as claim 5.

Thus, claim 5 and new claims 18-28 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Inventor: Hiroshi YOSHIDA et al.

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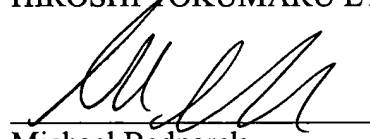
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703-770-7900

Respectfully submitted

HIROSHI TOKUMARU ET AL.

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By:



Michael Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

MB/LDE/ggb

Customer No. 28970

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